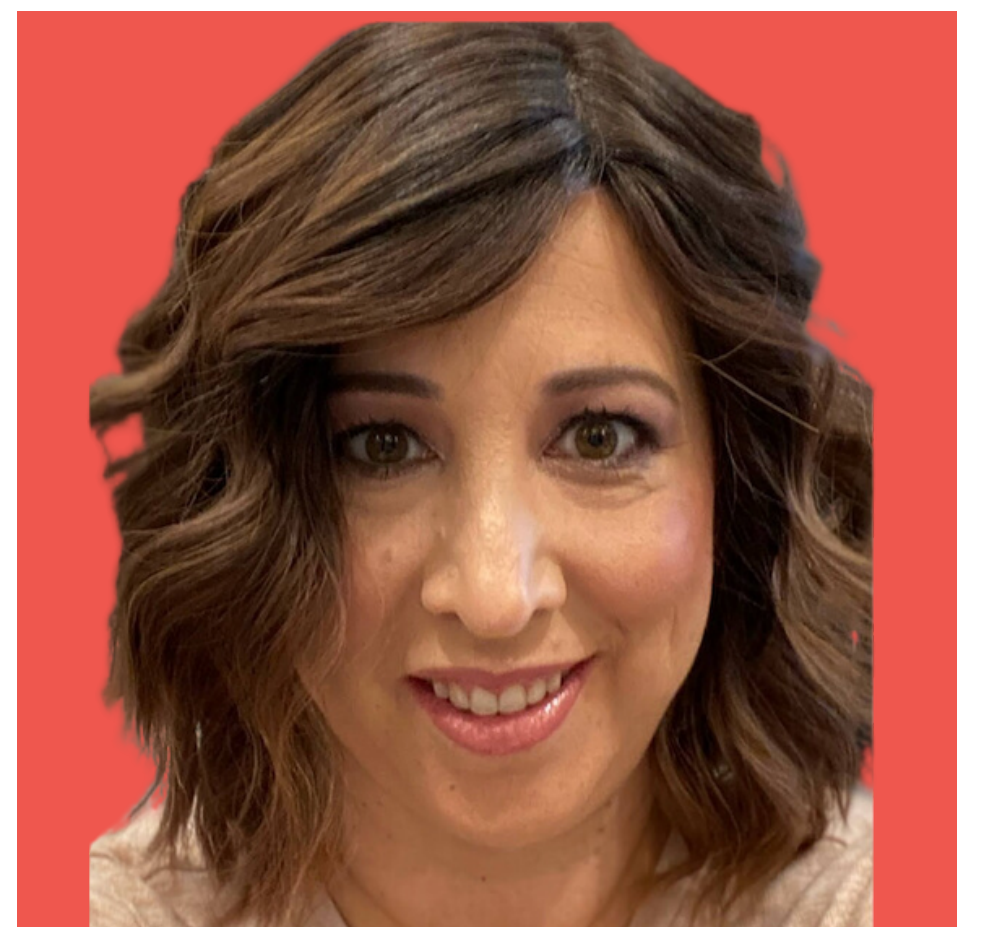


ASK ME ANYTHING



JEWISH HERITAGE MONTH

CELEBRATING JEWISH VOICES IN
THE PUBLIC SERVICE



WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023 | 1PM EDT
FEATURING: DARA LITHWICK, RICHARD BAYLIN, AND
JOANNE PFEIFFER

Canada 

ASK ME ANYTHING (AMA) RESOURCE GUIDE



NOTE FROM OUR TEAM

Thank you for participating in May's [Ask Me Anything \(AMA\): Celebrating Jewish Voices in the Public Service](#). We are excited that you joined us for this event! A list of resources has been collected and curated, that we believe will be helpful for our colleagues however, it is not an exhaustive list. We recognize that not every resource will be valuable to every reader, however, we hope that helpful and interesting resources can be found within our guide.

In collaboration, The AMA Team
DiversityandInclusion-Diversiteetinclusion@forces.gc.ca

EVENT DESCRIPTION

Join us for this month's Ask Me Anything event, "Celebrating Jewish Voices in the Public Service" – in honour of Jewish Heritage Month! This event will feature Jewish speakers from across the public service to share their stories and heritage.

Throughout Canadian history, Jewish communities have greatly contributed to the growth and success of Canada. Our panellists will share the intersectionalities between the beauty of their cultures, celebrations, and lives as public servants.

Join us this month on the Ask Me Anything stage as we celebrate Jewish voices in the public service.

#AMA CHALLENGE



#AMACHALLENGE

We encourage others to have courageous conversations with their peers. Use the monthly “Ask Me Anything” sessions as an opportunity to have brave conversations in your workplaces with your teams.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO:

- Invite your leaders and colleagues in your organization to an “Ask Me Anything” watch party, tune in live and watch the session together. Make sure it's in their calendars.
- Before the watch party, book an “After the AMA – Team Session” with your current team for the day after an event for 30-60mins. Share the resource guide and have these questions for discussion.

AFTER THE AMA – TEAM SESSION DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was my main takeaway – expand and share an amazing quote, story or moment
2. What made me uncomfortable/ what was one of my blindspots?
3. What is an example of a systemic discrimination that I am aware of in my life?
4. What am I not going to do anymore?
5. How can I use my voice/ influence – both overtly/covertly
6. Where am I going to dig in and learn more?
7. How will I continue this conversation?

It is important that we find value in the experiences, the unique characteristics of each other. When we develop our cultural competence, we are able to work better together within our teams and respond to each other with relevant empathy and compassion. By celebrating and sharing our authentic selves, we gain a greater appreciation for each other and the diversity that surrounds us.

SUPPORT

Remember, **support is available for you and your family when you need it.** Some of the discussions, at the AMA, or the content shared may bring forward past trauma or uncomfortable feelings; please seek professional help if this is the case.

Employee Assistance Program (for Federal Government employees) - [Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca)
Toll-free: 1-800-268-7708 TTY (for people with hearing impairments): 1-800-567-5803

The Canada Suicide Prevention Service - Connect with a responder now by calling our toll-free number 1-833-456-4566.



If in crisis visit your local emergency department, general hospitals or call 911

- <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/24-7-crisis-line/>
- Ottawa and region distress center: Distress: 613-238-3311 | Crisis: 613-722-6914 or 1-866-996-0991 | TEXT 343-306-5550 | Chat & Text 10am-11pm

Wellness Together Canada

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Support.

<https://wellnesstogether.ca> and toll free 1-866-585-0445.

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA RESOURCES

- Month of May Recognized as Jewish Heritage Month: Senator Frum's Bill Adopted
 - <https://sencanada.ca/en/sencaplus/opinion/month-of-may-recognized-as-jewish-heritage-month-senator-frums-bill-adopted/>
- Jewish Canadians
 - <https://library-archives.canada.ca/eng/collection/research-help/genealogy-family-history/ethno-cultural/Pages/jewish-canadians.aspx>

ONLINE RESOURCES

- Educational Resources on Jewish Heritage Month
 - <https://ccdi.ca/media/3416/20220419-en-educational-resources-on-jewish-heritage-month.pdf>
- Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies: Jewish Heritage Month Resource Guidebook
 - <https://www.dropbox.com/s/0769bhc70clekgc/Jewish%20Heritage%20Month%20Guide%202021.pdf?dl=0>
- Alex Dworkin Canadian Jewish Archives
 - <https://www.cjarchives.ca/en/c-j-archives/>

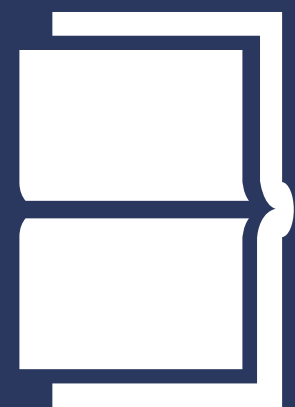


BOOKS

- All the Shining People by Kathy Friedman
 - <https://www.chapters.indigo.ca/en-ca/books/all-the-shining-people/9781487010409-item.html?ikwid=all+the+shining+people&ikwsec=Home&ikwidx=0#algoliaQueryId=ac80ea5b75730b05fc150d3fcac919e2>
- The Sleep of Apples by Ami Sands Brodoff
 - <https://www.chapters.indigo.ca/en-ca/books/the-sleep-of-apples-stories/9781771338813-item.html?ikwid=The+Sleep+of+Apples&ikwsec=Home&ikwidx=0#algoliaQueryId=d9aa41c1247a60254c6361184b83e9f5>
- Broken Dawn Blessings by Adam Sol
 - <https://www.chapters.indigo.ca/en-ca/books/broken-dawn-blessings-poems/9781770416062-item.html?ikwid=Broken+Dawn+Blessings&ikwsec=Home&ikwidx=0#algoliaQueryId=06c4a4314ff6c28354d8049572794800>
- Handwringers by Sarah Mintz
 - <https://www.chapters.indigo.ca/en-ca/books/handwringers/9781989274477-item.html?ikwid=Handwringers&ikwsec=Home&ikwidx=0#algoliaQueryId=d92db4c6d5215c1f65df1f2f169da265>
- You Are Not What We Expected by Sidura Ludwig
 - <https://www.chapters.indigo.ca/en-ca/books/you-are-not-what-we/9781487007348-item.html?ikwid=You+Are+Not+What+We+Expected&ikwsec=Home&ikwidx=0#algoliaQueryId=a2982c3c73df16097d46d0d55a9a778e>

VIDEOS AND PODCASTS

- National Film Board: Canadian Jewish Heritage Month
 - <https://www.nfb.ca/channels/canadian-jewish-heritage-month/>
- Celebrating Jewish Canadian History: Canadian Jewish Medical History
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WMnrThkqxq8&t=5s>
- Celebrating Jewish Canadian History: The Story of Sammy Luftspring
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8XJUTWnflIA>



Prerequisite: [Watch AMA](#)

Objective: to facilitate a discussion with my work team about celebrating Jewish voices in the public service

Time: 60 minutes

What was my main takeaway – expand and share an amazing quote, story or moment:

What made me uncomfortable/ what was one of my blind spots?

What am I not going to do anymore?

Prerequisite: [Watch AMA](#)

Objective: to facilitate a discussion with my work team about celebrating Jewish voices in the public service

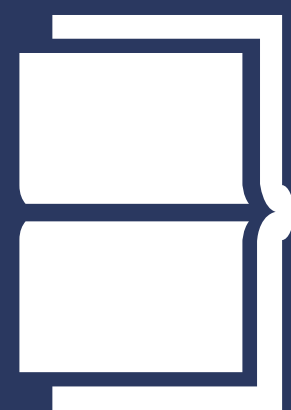
Time: 60 minutes

How can I use my voice/ influence – both overtly/covertly

Where am I going to dig in and learn more?

How will I continue this conversation?

What are some of the challenges unique to your identity that you face in the workplace?





Alexis Conrad, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet, Economic and Regional Development Policy, Privy Council Office

Alexis began his career in the public service in 1999 as an analyst at the Climate Change Secretariat before moving to the Privy Council Office, and eventually to Industry Canada and the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat (TBS). In 2008, the department now known as Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) as Director of Federal-Provincial/Territorial Relations.

He eventually became Director General of Horizontal Management and Integration and then the Temporary Foreign Worker Program in Skills and Employment Branch. In 2015, he made a brief return to TBS, before being appointed as Assistant Deputy Minister of the Learning Branch at ESDC and Policy Horizons Canada in 2016. In 2020, he was on assignment at Health Canada as part of the COVID-19 Task Force and appointed as Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Income Security and Social Development and Policy Horizons Canada later that same year. In January 2023, Alexis joined the Privy Council Office as the Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet, Economic and Regional Development Policy.

Alexis strongly believes in the importance of building linkages between social and economic policy in government decision-making, the power of quantitative and qualitative evidence, and inclusivity as a key policy and program objective. He is a strong believer in the importance of diversity in the public service and in encouraging physical and mental health.

He has a Master of Arts (M.A.) from Queen's University and a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) from Simon Fraser University. He proudly speaks both of Canada's official languages (English and French) and has travelled to every province and territory in our beautiful country.

PANELISTS



Dara Lithwick, Counsel, Office of the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel, House of Commons

Rabbi Dara Lithwick (she/ her) serves as Counsel in the Office of the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel at the House of Commons, where she focuses on parliamentary and constitutional law, and is a member of the House Administration's Diversity Council. She also leads Positive Space training at the House and is an advocate for 2SLGBTQ+ inclusion. When not at work, Rabbi Dara chairs the Reform Jewish Community of Canada's Tikkun Olam (Social Justice) Steering Committee and is active at Temple Israel Ottawa. She is also a lead builder at [Bayit Builder's Blog](#), a go-to portal for Jewish ritual and spiritual innovation, design thought, and practical tools for Jewish life. She can be found chasing her two children around Ottawa, and during the winter on local ski hills, as a volunteer member of the Canadian Ski Patrol at Sommet Edelweiss.



Chief Superintendent Richard Baylin, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

Richard joined the RCMP in 1991 out of Ottawa. After completing basic recruit training in Regina, Saskatchewan, he was posted to White Rock Detachment in British Columbia, where he conducted uniform General Duties on a variety of Criminal Code and federal investigations. In 1996, he transferred to the Greater Vancouver Drug Section, participating in investigations targeting the upper echelon of organised crime syndicates from Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2000, he transferred to RCMP National Headquarters in Ottawa.

Currently, Richard has over 31 years of international and domestic police experience as a manager, instructor, investigator, subject-matter expert and facilitator in a variety of areas. In his diverse law enforcement background, he has held positions overseeing the RCMP's International Operations, heading up INTERPOL Canada, and supervising RCMP engagement and involvement in United Nations Program Management and International Capacity Building. He has also been in charge of a number of areas within the RCMP Covert Operations Branch, which includes the Human Source Program and Undercover Program. In addition, he has worked in RCMP Protective Operations and in Professional Standards.

His current role is Chief Superintendent in charge of RCMP Covert Operations, Data Analytics & Science. Richard also currently participates in close personal protection duties in Canada and deploys internationally to coordinate protective duties where required. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from Carleton University and a Graduate Certificate from the Australian Institute of Police Management (Australian Federal Police). He has also helped deliver the AIPM program as a Visiting Fellow.



Joanne Pfeiffer, Director, Border Services and Immigration Division, Treasury Board Secretariat (TBS)

Joanne Pfeiffer is the Director of the Border Services and Immigration Division at TBS. Prior to this she worked as an executive at Natural Resources Canada and the Privy Council Office, and held policy analyst positions at the Department of National Defence and Global Affairs Canada. Joanne is an experienced executive, having previously worked in policy, operational and central agency environments (including the Privy Council Office), providing strategic advice and briefings to deputy ministers, ministers, ministerial staff, as well as the Prime Minister's Office on complex files.



Shannon Anderson, Change Project Manager, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Shannon Anderson joined the Business Planning and Financial Management Office of the Chief Financial Office at Fisheries and Oceans Canada in July 2022 as a Change Project Manager, with a focus on increasing Diversity and Inclusion within the Sector.

Prior to her role at DFO, she was an Employment Equity Advisory at Canadian Forces Support Group (OttawaGatineau) supporting the five local Defence Advisory Groups as well as the National Groups with their mandates

She first joined the Public Service in 2002 as an FSWEP Student, and has occupied a variety of HR and Program Management positions within National Defence, Innovation Science and Economic Development Canada and now Fisheries and Oceans.

Shannon graduated from trades school and ran her own small business before joining the public service full-time. Her motto about the Public Service is “ It’s never about the paper, it’s about the people”.



Adam Moscoe, International Trade and Finance Branch, Finance Canada

Adam Moscoe works at Finance Canada’s International Trade and Finance Branch, where he concentrates on Canada’s engagement at the World Bank to end extreme poverty and promote shared prosperity. Adam is a member of the Federal Speakers’ Forum on Lived Experience. Active within the Jewish community, he is past president of the Tamir Foundation of Ottawa, which supports people with developmental disabilities and autism. He is also a singer.